

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 11-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended. New claims 17 and 18 are added to recite additional features supported in the specification, for example, at least at Figs. 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12 and paragraph [0090] of the specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 1 and 6 asserting that claims 1 and 6 contain informalities. To obviate this objection, the term "space" in claims 1 and 6 is amended to recite "vehicle." Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 1 and 6 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Deng (U.S. Patent No. 6,876,966); and rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Deng in view of Kishi (U.S. Patent No. 4,501,012). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Deng fails to disclose or suggest an acoustic model creating method including creating plural types of noise-superimposed speech data by superimposing at least two different types of noise data on standard speech data, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 6.

Deng discloses a method and apparatus for training and using a pattern recognition model for noise reduction. In col. 11, lines 2-14, Deng discloses that training data can be collected as associated with a different type of noise. The type of noise may contain air conditioning noise or background speech noise. Deng merely discloses that the training data can be populated by noise from an air conditioner or other background speech noise. However, Deng fails to disclose a superimposing step of two different types of noise data with any speech data.

Thus, Deng fails to disclose an acoustic model creating method including creating plural types of noise-superimposed speech data by superimposing at least two different types of noise data on standard speech data, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 6.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and 6 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2, 5, 7, 8 and 11-16 depend from independent claims 1 and 6, respectively, are patentable for the same reasons, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are patentable for the same reasons as well as for the additional features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 11-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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